THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (c) It is a fact that a certain proportion of School going Children do take to smoking.

The Government has introduced a comprehensive legislation for discouraging the use of tobacco products, which, *inter-alia*, includes measures such as ban on sale of tobacco products to minors and total ban on advertising of tobacco products, in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 2001. The Bill is presently being examined by the Department related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development of Rajya Sabha.

Government is also taking measures to make young people aware of the dangers of tobacco use through campaigns on Television, Radio and Print Media.

Filling of reserved posts for SCs/STs/OBCs

†812. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether posts reserved for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes in his Ministry and its attached offices have been filled;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps Government are taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The nominations to various Groups 'A', 'B', 'C' and 'D' posts under this Ministry is being made by SSC/UPSC etc. The shortfall had arisen due to the non-availability of suitable reserved candidates in various categories. All out efforts are being made to fill the reserved posts by sending requisitions to various recruiting

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

agencies as per Government instructions issued from time to time on the basis of the post based rosters.

Importance to preventive medicines

813. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether preventive medicines are being given more importance to create a healthier nation; and

(b) if so, what are the measures taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare attaches great importance to preventive health care. Under the Immunization Programme, vaccinations to infants and pregnant women are given for control of vaccine preventable diseases namely childhood tuberculosis, diphtheria, pertussis, polimyelitis, measles and neonatal tetanus. For preventing blindness, prophylactic Vitamin "A" is given to children and for prevention of anemia, Iron and Folic Acid tablets are given to children and pregnant women.

Increase in TB

814. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether incidence of the dreaded disease TB has increased many times in recent years;

(b) whether the incidence is more in rural areas and in the BPL population;

(c) if so, the specific measures being contemplated to combat this disease; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) The incidence of TB has remained more or less the same over the recent years.

(b) to (d) There is not recent nation wide study undertaken on this